



U.S. - Australia Biomedical Research Partnership Conference

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*United States Embassy
University of Canberra
National Health and Medical Research Council
Australian Academy of Science
Australian Academy of Health Medical Sciences,
National Institutes of Health
Department of Industry and Science*

Welcome remarks - Tom Calma, Chancellor, University of Canberra



In an era of globalisation, international research collaboration is key in tackling some of our most “wicked and complex problems”. There is consensus that increasing research collaboration in a knowledge-based international economy is an economic and social imperative.

Transnational research collaboration between the USA and Australia is important for future research endeavours, for both countries. There are many parallel research priorities and ‘grand challenges’ for both countries. America and Australia face similar health issues, and have similar cultures and perspectives on the world. The benefits to Australian scientists include being able to collaborate with top-researchers and access potential markets for its research-based products in America. The US gains too, which is why Australia ranks eighth as a source of international co-authors for American journal articles in science and engineering. Collaboration provides a different perspective on areas of mutual interest, and access to a unique environment and facilities in the southern hemisphere and to world-class expertise in certain strategic areas including; cancer, infectious disease and immunity, global and public health, genomics, cellular signalling and medication development. Strong research collaboration between America and Australia will help support knowledge-transfer and knowledge-exchange; will help facilitate and establish new markets and help attract transnational direct investments.

Every day, U.S. and Australian medical researchers and institutions collaborate in many areas of biomedical research, such as genomics and human health, infection and immunity, cellular signalling in health and disease, molecular pathogenicity, neuroscience and mental health, medical diagnostics and drug discovery, public health and global health, and translational research. This multidisciplinary U.S.-Australia Biomedical Research Partnership Conference will highlight these scientific accomplishments and bring together scientists from across Australia who have partnered with U.S. colleagues.

As the Chancellor of the University of Canberra, I am delighted to be able to welcome you all to our University and the United States–Australia Biomedical Research Partnership Conference, which today will showcase some of the best research and I hope will further strengthen US-Australian collaboration in health for the future.

Welcome remarks - The Honorable John Berry, Ambassador of the United States of America



Innovation lies at the very heart of what America is. From the beginning, our country was a grand experiment. We believed then – and now – that freedom plus sweat equals progress. If you add creativity or innovation, you get progress squared.

Innovation is essential for success in the biomedical fields. It will help us face the challenges of emerging pathogens, cure the most devastating diseases, and improve the health of an aging population.

Research and innovation contribute to reducing global health disparities and improving the lives of vulnerable populations. Through the efforts of biomedical researchers, people throughout the world live more fulfilling lives.

Partnerships like the one between the United States and Australia are essential to accelerating progress in this field. Our cooperation in research and development already spans academia, government, and the private sector. Working together, our researchers address some of the most harmful public health problems -- including cancer, infectious disease, stroke and cardiovascular disease.

I look forward to seeing U.S. and Australian researchers produce similar breakthroughs on other diseases. This conference will highlight scientific accomplishments in many areas and will bring together scientists from across Australia to share and discuss their collaborative research with U.S. partners.

I hope that all participants leave with a new appreciation for the broad scope of U.S.-Australia biomedical research and the importance of expanding this vital partnership.

Welcome remarks - Professor Anne Kelso, CEO, National Health and Medical Research Council



Australian researchers have a long history of collaboration with colleagues in the United States. Many Australians have worked in the U.S. at some stage in their career and we have been pleased to welcome many U.S. scientists into our laboratories.

The National Health and Medical Research Council places a very high value on international collaborative research and supports it in several ways. In addition to enabling overseas researchers to be investigators on research grants, NHMRC engages in bilateral and multilateral funding arrangements with a number of countries and influences global research policies as a member of international organisations. Through these initiatives and the partnerships formed by our researchers, Australia is able to enhance its contribution to global advances in health and medical research.

Over the next triennium NHMRC will continue to work with the U.S. and other international partners to promote a global perspective in health and medical research and to support Australian researchers in their international networking and collaboration. For example, NHMRC and the National Institutes of Health have recently agreed to cooperate in the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, an ambitious U.S. program which aims to revolutionise understanding of how the human brain functions in health and disease.

Today's conference is a great opportunity to showcase collaborative projects and the outcomes of high quality research across a broad range of fields. It is also a chance for us to learn from past experience and build the networks needed for future collaborative success.